

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) A method for automatically updating a printer driver on a computer comprising the steps of:
 - (A) contacting a remote network location using a contact module installed on said computer;
 - (B) comparing a first version of the printer driver installed on the computer with a second version stored at the remote network location using a determining module installed on said computer;
 - (C) downloading and installing the printer driver from the remote location onto the computer if it is a more recent version of the printer driver than ~~one~~ said first version currently installed on the computer using a downloading and installing module installed on said computer; and
 - (D) uninstalling the version of the printer driver previously stored on the computer using an uninstalling module installed on said computer.
2. (Original) A method according to claim 1 in which the comparing step includes querying the second version of the driver by reading from the initialization file of the second version to determine its version.
3. (Original) A method according to claim 1 in which each step is performed at a designated time or upon the occurrence of a designated event without prompting by the computer user.
4. (Original) A method according to claim 1 in which the second version is stored at a location a system administrator can control which versions of printer drivers are stored there.

5. (Original) A method according to claim 1 in which the level of user interaction required in the updating process can be varied.
6. (Original) A method according to claim 1 in which the steps are performed without cessation or interruption of the computer system or its programs during the execution of the steps.
7. (Presently presented) A computer system that allows a first version of a printer driver stored on the computer system to be automatically updated, the computer system comprising
 - (A) a contacting module configured to implement operations to contact a specified remote network location at which a second version of the printer driver is stored;
 - (B) a determining module configured to implement operations to determine the version of the second version of the printer driver stored at the remote location;
 - (C) a comparing module configured to implement operations to compare the first version of the printer driver stored on the computer system with the second version stored at the remote location;
 - (D) a downloading and installing module configured to implement operations to download and install on the computer system the second version of the printer driver stored at the remote location if that version is a newer version than the first version currently stored on the computer system; and
 - (E) an uninstalling module configured to implement operations to uninstall the first version of the printer driver stored on the computer system.
8. (Previously presented) The computer system of claim 7 wherein the modules are program subroutines of the printer driver.

9. (Original) The computer system of claim 7 wherein the new printer driver can be downloaded and installed without cessation or interruption of the computer system or its programs during its execution.
10. (Currently amended) The computer system of claim 7 wherein the software contacting module, determining module, comparing module, downloading and installing module, and uninstalling module ~~is~~ are part of an install/upgrade application distinct from the printer driver.
11. (Previously presented) The computer system of claim 7 wherein the printer driver configured to be used with a xerographic print system.